

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2012.10.23

DATE: Tuesday October 23, 2012

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Pacific Ocean at Surf Beach near Lompoc, Northern Santa Barbara County, California, USA.

NAME: Francisco Javier Solorio Jr

DESCRIPTION: He was a 39-year-old male from Orcutt, California. He was wearing a black full wetsuit. An avid surfer, he had been coming to the surf spot since he was a boy.

SURFBOARD: The trifin surfboard was also bitten by the shark.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 10h47, KCALOMPO11 (Vandenberg Village Lompoc) recorded air temperature of 60.9°F, dew point 53° F, humidity 75%, sea level pressure 30.04 inches (falling) and wind direction NNW at 3 mph with gusts to 5 mph.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Gibbous, 69% of the Moon was illuminated. First Quarter, October 21, 2012. Full Moon, October 29, 2012.

SEA CONDITIONS: There were two-foot swells. The water was usually clear. Surfers sitting on their boards could see sand ripples on the seafloor.

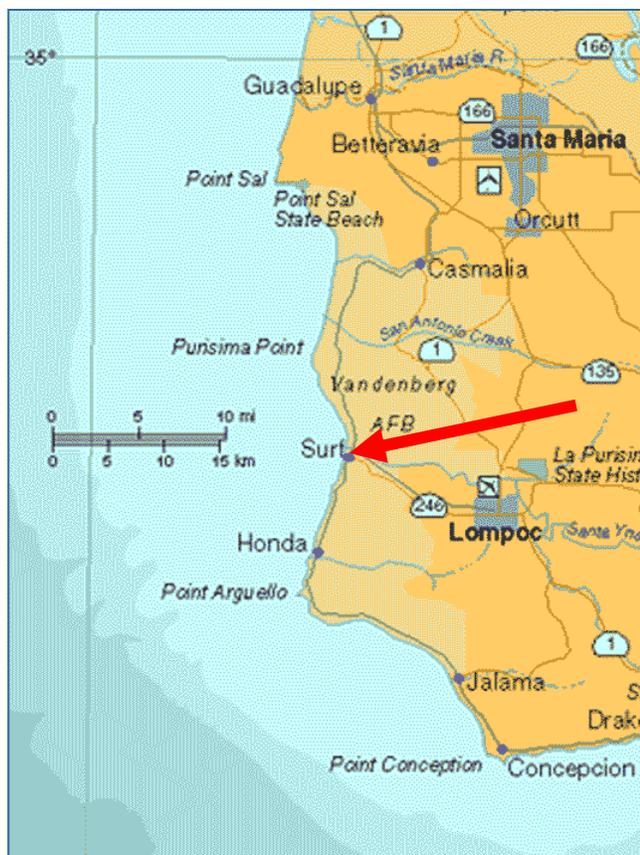
ENVIRONMENT: Surf Beach is located about 150 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The beach runs along the edge of Vandenberg Air Force Base and is a popular spot with local swimmers and surfers. About an hour before the attack, a pod of dolphins were seen bunched together on the surface.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: 10 to 12 feet

TIME: Shortly before 11h00

NARRATIVE: Solorio was surfing with three friends when he was bitten by a shark. He was sitting on his board, facing seawards. One of his friends, who was 30 feet away, saw the shark bite or hit the man. The shark's lower jaw struck the bottom of Solorio's board, its upper jaw struck his torso. Sgt. Mark A. Williams reported, "His friend ended up swimming over and pulling him from the water where he received first aid." The friend started first aid while another surfer called for help. The fire department of Vandenberg Air Force Base responded to the scene. The surfer was pronounced dead by paramedics at the beach.



Francisco Javier Solorio, Jr.

Nina Armagno, 30th Space Wing commander, ordered the closure of all beaches on the base's coastline for 72 hours as a precaution.

INJURY: Fatal. The shark made a single bite that that ripped through the surfer's left upper torso and back. There was a small wound on the top of his left hand. The surfboard was also bitten.

SPECIES: White shark, 15 to 16 feet in length

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier





Surf Beach is located not far from Highway 1 and 240 where the road dead ends at the Vandenberg Air Force Base. There is an Amtrak Train stop that lets you off right at the beach. This is the same beach at which Lucas Ransom was killed by a white shark on October 22, 2010.

